PIED PIPER COMICS™

$1.95
$2.95 Canada

LAWRENCE & LIM'S

#6

EX-MUTANTS™

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PLUS: OUR FIRST LOOK AT

THE NEW EX-MUTANTS™

AN EXPLANATION:

I'm sure a lot of you are wondering why there's a PIED PIPER COMICS logo on this long delayed **NEW HUMANS™** #1. Yes, there's a reason for it, and a lot of it is a little hard to explain. But I'm just going to tell you what happened, not the official story, not any doctored version designed to make me or any one else look better.

Last spring, I was first approached by David Campiti about writing **EX-MUTANTS™**, which was then to be titled *Young Ex-Mutant Samurai Humans*. Despite some reservations about the dumb title and silly concept, I took the job.

At the time, David was working with Brian Marshall at Eternity Comics. They were financed by Scott Rosenberg, the owner of Sunrise Distribution. Perhaps David should have had more reservations. There was nothing really illegal or immoral about Rosenberg owning a comic book company, but with all the secrecy he demanded, there were times we could hardly help feeling there was something shady about it.

EX-MUTANTS #1 finally appeared in August, and around that time serious problems cropped up among Campiti, Marshall, and some creators. At that point, Rosenberg separated them, and set each up with his own companies.

The split-up resulted in the creation of AMAZING COMICS and WONDER COLOR COMICS, led by David. Brian Marshall was left with Eternity, and a new company called Imperial.

It was, at times, almost a competition with Eternity, a contest to see who could put out the most books and make the most money. I'm not going to judge who the winner was, but I will say that I never regretted my decision to leave Eternity.

For the next several months, I worked in the Campiti & Associates offices as an associate editor for Wonder and Amazing, as well as writing **EX-MUTANTS** and several other titles. At first, everything went very well.

But then, payments stopped coming on time, then finally at all. Money for office expenses didn't come either, and Scott Rockwell, our art director and my roommate, and I, each went several weeks without salary. Then, on several occasions, there was interference with our editorial decisions.

Finally, the situation became intolerable. Rumors surfaced concerning plans to dump our company and pirate our projects away.

So we're making as clean a break as possible, and we'll continue our efforts to see everyone he owes money to, including David Campiti, Ron Lim, Tim Dzon and me, and other creators and creditors as well, are paid.

As for me, I'm sort of out of work, because my associate editor position is gone, but I'll still be writing these books, as well as working on some color books I hope to see out this summer. It's been a great time, and I don't regret a minute of this.

David Lawrence

David Lawrence

Lawrence & Lim's EX-MUTANTS™, Vol. 1, No. 6, July 1987. An 8-times-yearly PIED PIPER COMICS™ publication. Published jointly and TM by Pied Piper Press, Inc. and Campiti & Associates. Editorial offices: C&A, 2405 Warwood Avenue, Wheeling, WV 26003, (304) 277-1103. Business offices: PPPI, 3755 Milan Avenue, S.W., Wyoming, MI 49509, (616) 531-7956. David Campiti, Co-Publisher/Editor-in-Chief. Mark L. Hamlin, Co-Publisher/Financial Manager. Roger McKenzie, Co-Publisher/Managing Editor. Scott Rockwell, Art Director. David Lawrence, Thing #2, Retired. LAWRENCE & LIM'S EX-MUTANTS, THE NEW EX-MUTANTS, all prominent characters featured in this issue, and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of David Lawrence, Ronald Lim & David Campiti. Story © 1987 David Lawrence. Art © 1987 Ronald Lim and Timothy Dzon. All rights reserved. Cover colors by Scott Rockwell. Everything's ficticious except the price and this indicia. Cover price $1.95 in U.S. and $2.95 in Canada. Printed in U.S.A. **For Advertising Rates in any of our titles, call (616) 531-7956.**

EVERY MORNING, THEY CAME TO WAIT FOR THE MIRACLE.
IT WAS A LONG WAIT, BUT IT WOULD HAPPEN SOON. THEY KNEW IT.
DOC TOLD THEM SO.
AW--I'M TIRED OF BEING FRED ALL THE TIME!
I WANNA BE BELUSHI!
WAP!
1

TODAY--THE MIRACLE HAPPENED!
YOU WERE RIGHT, DOC--THINGS HAVE CHANGED!
WOW!
WHAT IN THE WORLD...?
BELUSHI--YOU WOULD!
I DON'T KNOW, ERIN--BUT I THINK I LIKE IT!
EX-MUTANTS™
STARRING IN--
GODS AND MEN
DAVID LAWRENCE
SCREENPLAY
RON LIM TIM DZON
PHOTOGRAPHY
BOB PINAHA
SOUND
DAVID CAMPITI
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
LOOK!! THEY'RE HERE!!!
THE EX-MUTANTS HAVE RETURNED!!
2
3

DOC--HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
DON'T WORRY, ANGELA. I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL LATER. BUT RIGHT NOW--

--JUST LET THEM LOOK AT YOU FOR A WHILE.

SOME REJOICE.

SOME ARE AWED.

SOME KNEEL IN THANKFUL PRAYER.
MOST ARE HAPPY--

--BUT AT LEAST ONE IS NOT.
MURDERERS!!!
EVERYONE WORSHIPS THEM, AND THEY'RE NOTHING BUT MURDERERS!!

I CAN'T STAND IT!!!

THAT'S ABOUT ENOUGH.
NO NEED TO SPOIL THEM.

BUT DOC, I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

WHAT HAPPENED, ERIN--?
WHY--JUST WHAT I'D ALWAYS HOPED FOR!

"AFTER FRED DIED, THERE WAS A VOID IN THE CITY POWER STRUCTURE.

"I WASN'T REALLY CONCERNED AT FIRST. I WAS HARD AT WORK, TRYING TO CURE YOUR RADIATION POISONING.

"BUT THINGS DIDN'T RUN VERY WELL. THE CITY WAS NEVER PEACEFUL, BUT EVEN THE SMALLEST DISAGREEMENTS BECAME LIFE-AND-DEATH STRUGGLES.
"SO, WITH FRED GONE--

"--THE CITY TURNED TO ME. SMALL THINGS AT FIRST.

"TENDING TO WOUNDS--
FIRST AID KIT

"--SETTLING DISPUTES. SOON, IT SEEMED NATURAL THAT I TAKE CHARGE.

"I TRIED TO ORGANIZE THINGS. GET WORK STARTED ON THE REBUILDING PROJECTS I'D ALWAYS DREAMED OF--
"--BUT ENTHUSIASM WAS NOTICEABLY LACKING. UNTIL I REALIZED SOMETHING...

"--FROM THE VERY START, MANY MUTANTS HAD SECRETLY ADMIRED--PERHAPS EVEN WORSHIPPED--ALL OF YOU. AFTER FRED'S DEATH--
"--THEIR NUMBERS QUICKLY GREW."

"I WAS ABLE TO USE THE STATUE OF YOU ALL AS A RALLYING POINT FOR THE REBUILDING WORK.

"THE MORE I INVOKED YOUR NAME, THE HARDER THEY WORKED! I NEVER HAD TO LIE--NEVER HAD TO TELL THEM YOU WERE GODS--"

--ALL I HAD TO DO WAS TELL THEM YOU WERE COMING BACK.

REALLY BACK
COULD ALMOST TOUCH
NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE
MIRACLE IT'S A
AMAZING
WHAT ABOUT
WHEEEEEET!
'EY RUSTY! QUIT A FOOLIN' AROUN'! WE'S GOTTA WORK TA DO!

DIS IS BIG STUFF GOIN' ON A HERE, AN' WE GOTTA GO TELL A DA BOSS!

RUSTY!! WHATCHA THINKA YOU'RE DOIN'??
HONK!
HONK!
RUSTY!!!

INSTANT KARMA'S GONNA GET YOU
I JUST DON'T LIKE IT. THAT'S ALL.

I WISH YOU'D RELAX, LORELEI. IT'S NOT THAT BAD.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, ANGIE. I REALLY FEEL LIKE WE'RE DECEIVING THESE PEOPLE.

LOOK, I'D RATHER HAVE THEM WORSHIP US THAN THROWING THINGS!
WE'RE NOT GODS, BELUSHI. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND THE OTHERS IS THE WAY WE LOOK.
SEEMS TO ME YOU THOUGHT THAT WAS A BIG DIFFERENCE AT ONE TIME.
NEXUS

I THINK IT'S ALL KIND OF NEAT, ACTUALLY. LOOK AT HOW MUCH WORK GETS DONE. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

DAMMIT, VIKKI! THE "BIG DEAL" IS THAT THEIR BLIND WORSHIP IS JUST AS BAD AS THEIR BLIND HATRED WAS BEFORE! I SPENT ENOUGH TIME DELUDING MYSELF, BELIEVING APPEARANCE WAS EVERYTHING!
I REFUSE TO DO THAT TO ANYONE ELSE!!

I REALLY DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH THIS, EITHER. I JUST--

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M HEARING!!
SLAM!

DOC'S NEVER DONE ANYTHING BUT GOOD FOR ANY OF US. FOR ANYONE!
HOW DARE YOU ALL SIT HERE AND DEBATE WHAT HE'S DONE!!

TAKE IT EASY, ANGELA. NOBODY'S QUESTIONING DOC'S MOTIVES. I DON'T THINK LORELEI OR I HAVE EVEN SAID WE DISAGREE WITH DOC.
WE JUST FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, THAT'S ALL.

YOU'RE RIGHT, ERIN. I OVERREACTED. IT'S JUST I'VE BEEN WITH DOC LONGER THAN ANY OF YOU. HE TOOK ME IN WHEN I WAS STILL A CHILD.

GOOD GIRL, ANGELA.

I'VE SEEN HOW HARD HE'S WORKED, HOW MUCH HE'S DREAMED. HE TOOK THE FIVE OF US AND CURED THE EFFECTS OF OVER A GENERATION OF RADIATION EXPOSURE.
HE REBUILT US, AND HE'S TRYING TO REBUILD THE WORLD.
UNCOMFORTABLE OR NOT, I THINK WE SHOULD DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP HIM.

AND IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, THE EX-MUTANTS GO OUT INTO THE CITY

TOGETHER AT FIRST--

--THEN INDIVIDUALLY

WOOOOOW

DON'T WORRY! I'LL GET IT!

WAK

HOO-HOO-HOO

WHAT'S WRONG, DEAR?

WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

OH, VIKKI!!
I WISH I LOOKED JUST LIKE YOU!!

YOU MEAN THAT'S IT-- YOU AREN'T ALL GOING TO FIGHT OVER THE FOOD?

OF COURSE NOT DOC TAUGHT US ALL TO SHARE. WHY WOULD WE FIGHT?

I MEAN-- UNLESS YOU WANT US TO?

QUICK! I NEED HELP! IF WE GET HIM TO DOC, MAYBE--

IT'S TOO LATE HE'S DEAD.
I'M SORRY IF I CAN DO ANYTHING.
I'M NOT SURE I SHOULD ASK, BUT, WELL--

--COULD YOU BLESS HIM?

WHOOPS!

GEE, I'M SORRY I--
IT'S ERIN!!!

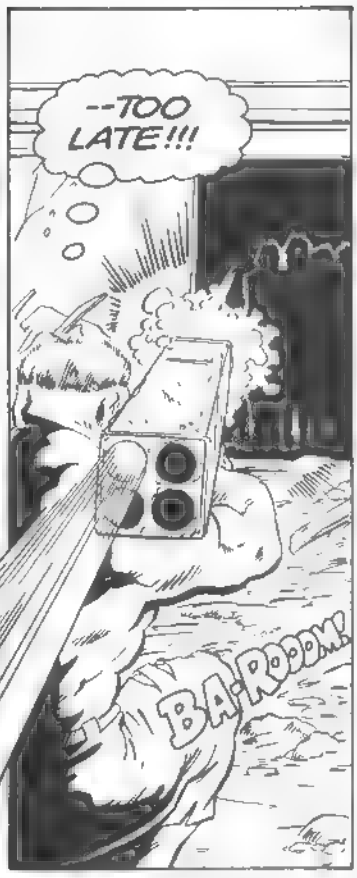
I'M SORRY--I DIDN'T MEAN TO--I WANT TO PLAY BELUSHI BUT THEY MAKE ME PLAY FRED ALL THE TIME-

IT'S ALL RIGHT JUST GLAD TO SEE MY SIDE'S WINNING.

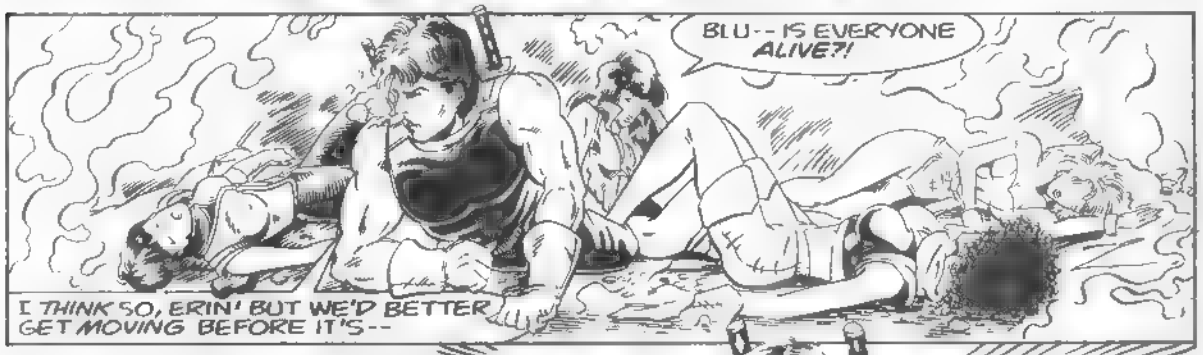
BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD TAKE TURNS, YOU KNOW.

I-I-I MEANT NO HARM I ONLY WISHED TO SERVE--
DON'T WORRY--
--YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO'S IN TROUBLE!
A-HEM--
TAP TAP TAP
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!! THEY HAVE TO BE STOPPED--
-AND I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT TO DO IT!
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, FRED--
--YOU CAN COUNT ON YOUR OLD FRIEND, BARNEY!!!

I GUESS THIS ISN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT
THAT'S FUNNY, LORELEI. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE FUN.
I WAS HAVING FUN...
THAT'S RIGHT KEEP TALKING. YOU WON'T EVEN NOTICE ME TILL IT'S--


--TOO LATE!!!
BA-ROOOM!

KA-BOOOM!


BLU--IS EVERYONE ALIVE?!
I THINK SO, ERIN! BUT WE'D BETTER GET MOVING BEFORE IT'S--

TOO LATE? IT ALREADY IS, EX-MUTANTS.
FROM THE MOMENT YOU KILLED FRED--

UHNNGH...
--YOUR LIVES WERE OVER!

oh my god
AGGHHH
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE, BOY JUST LIKE MY BEST FRIEND. YOU--
YOU TALK TOO MUCH, BARNEY--
--AND ACT TOO SLOWLY!
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, BARNEY? YOU WERE NEVER THIS VIOLENT BEFORE
YOU KILLED FRED--YOU KILLED MY BEST FRIEND!
DAMMIT, BARNEY! HE WAS TRYING TO KILL US!
THERE'S NO REASONING WITH HIM--BUT BARNEY'S ALWAYS BEEN SO HARMLESS--NOT TO MENTION STUPID--
--I HOPE I CAN END THIS WITHOUT HURTING HIM!

SLAM

NOT BAD, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.

ERIN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
EVERYTHING'S FINE NOW, DOC.

OOOOH... MY HEAD! WHAT HAPPENED?
BARNEY, BELIEVE IT OR NOT.
BARNEY?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIM?
CAN'T LET HIM JUST RUN AROUND LIKE THIS. HE MIGHT HURT SOMEBODY-- AND HE'LL CERTAINLY HURT HIMSELF.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DOC?

DOC?
CLICK!

BBRRRRRRRRAP!

DOC! HE WAS HELPLESS! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO -
THE MAN WAS A MENACE, ERIN

TO ALL OF YOU, AND EVERYTHING YOU STAND FOR. I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO.
DOC--YOU KILLED HIM!!

AND WHAT DO ALL OF YOU DO WITH THOSE SWORDS YOU CARRY? CARVE TURKEY?

ONLY IN SELF-DEFENSE, DOC
REALLY, ERIN? THINK OF ALL THE PEOPLE KILLED, AND TELL ME-
WAS THERE NEVER ANOTHER WAY?

MAYBE THERE WAS, DOC--
--BUT IT WAS STILL NEVER LIKE THIS.
I THINK WE'D BETTER GO.

WAIT! YOU CAN'T JUST--
-UH--

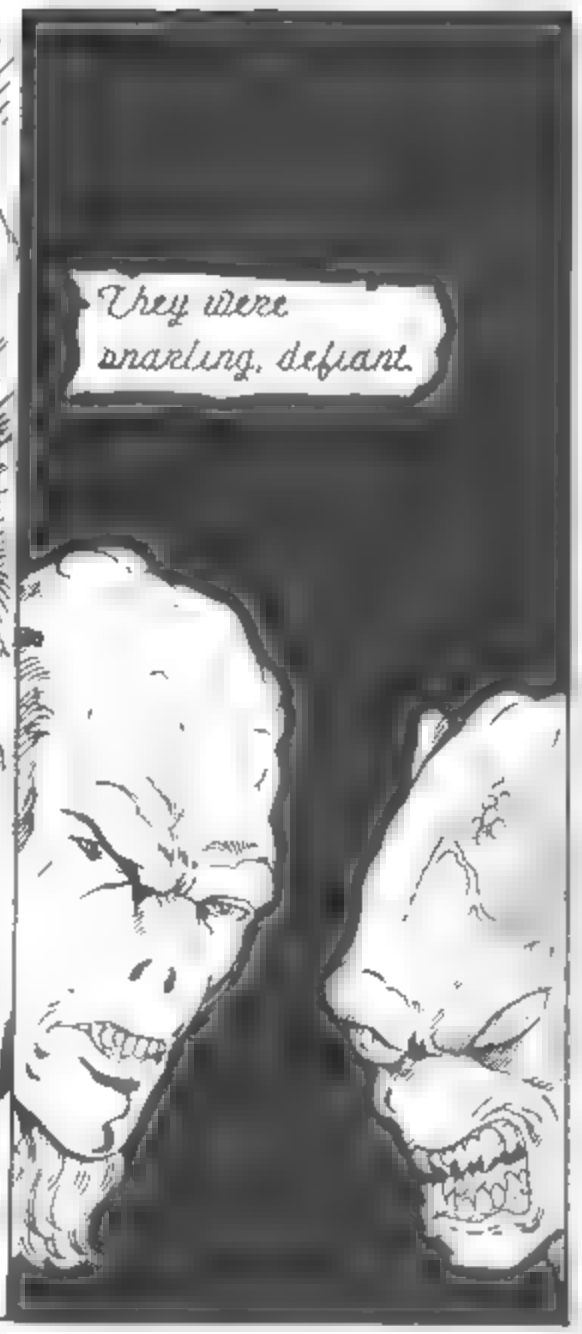
THE EX-MUTANTS HAVE TO LEAVE US NOW. THEY SEE THEIR WORK HERE IS DONE. NOW THE REST OF THE WORLD NEEDS THEM
-SO, UNTIL THEY RETURN, YOU'RE TO OBEY ME AS YOU WOULD--
ERIN-SHOULDN'T WE STOP HIM?
WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO, BLU?

"PEOPLE BELIEVE WHAT THEY WANT TO."
End

THE NEW EX-MUTANTS™
BY DAVID LAWRENCE AND RON LIM
FROM THE JOURNAL OF EMMANUEL CUGAT:
Things got worse today
Another fight in the city

With the Ex Mutants gone, things were different---

Harder, somehow.


They were snarling, defiant.

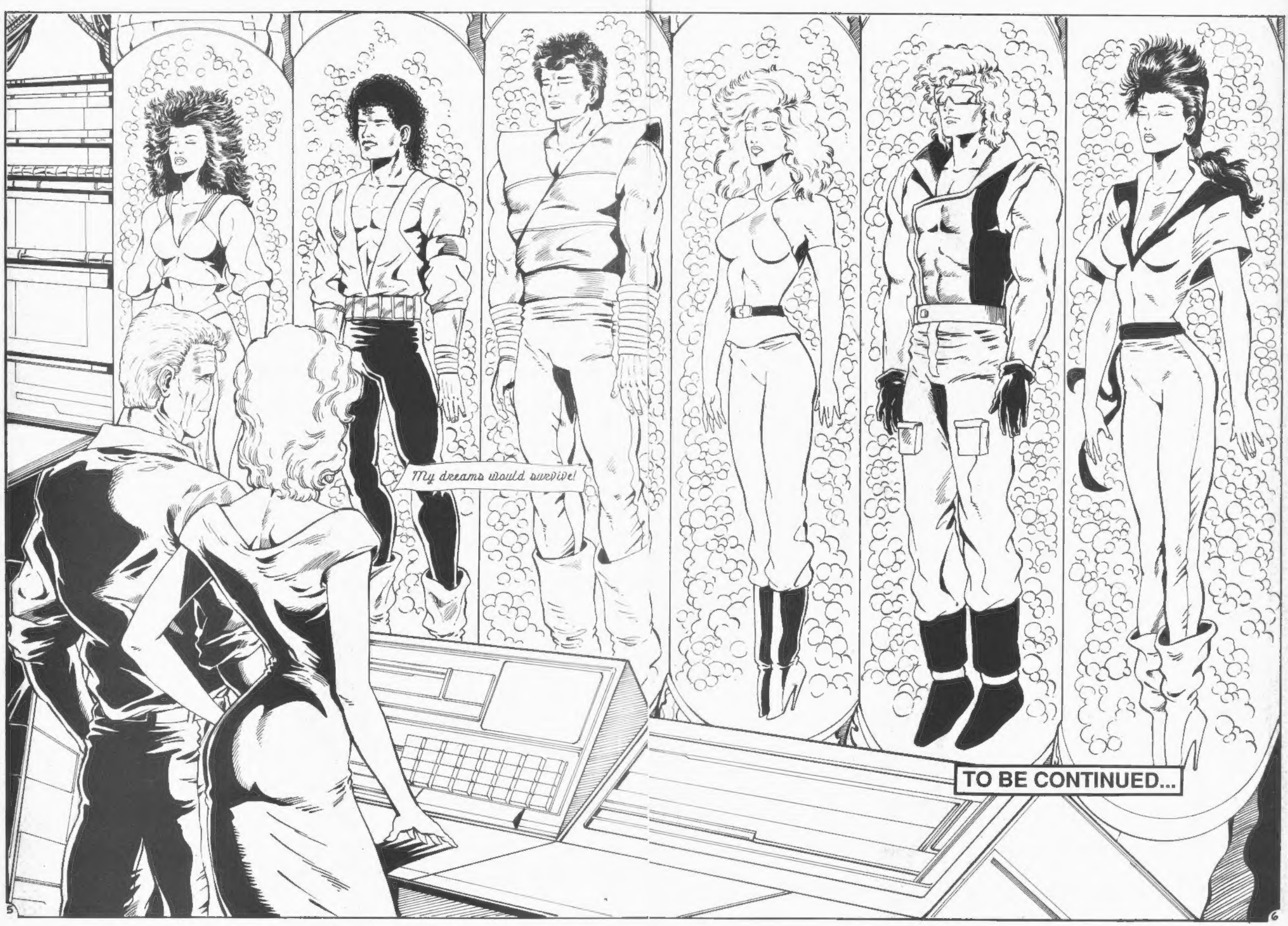
But no outright disobedience-

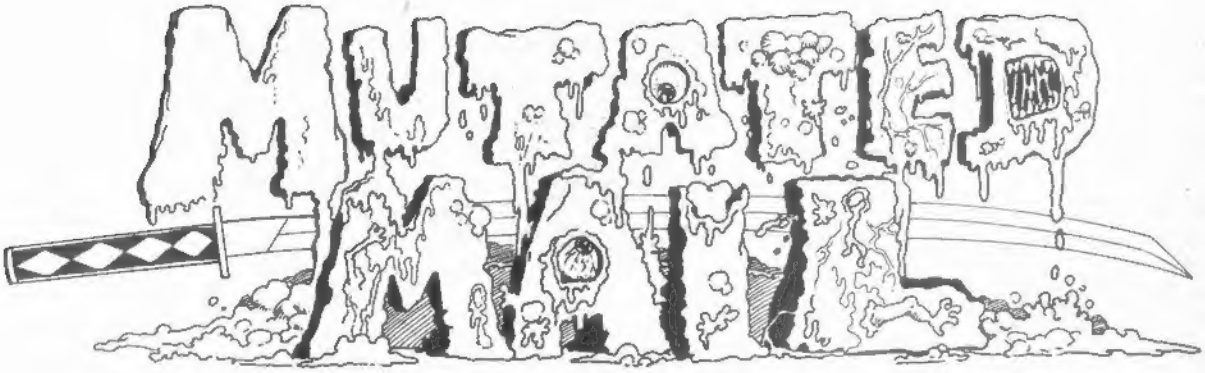
Yet.

When I returned home

*SEE THE EX-MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION #1 AND THE UPCOMING EX-MUTANTS GRAPHIC NOVEL FOR DETAILS.

Luckily, I had begun work on another project even as I completed my original 'cure' of the Ex - Mutants.
And although it would take hard work--
And time--
I knew--
That in the end--


My dreams would survive!
TO BE CONTINUED...



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
2405 WARWOOD AVENUE, WHEELING, WV 26003

Looks like it's that time again, so let's jump right into the old Mutated Mailbag and see what pops out at us. First up is the official "Take that, Scott Rockwell!" letter of the month...

Dear Dave,

I've just finished reading **EX-MUTANT #3** for the third time, and I want to thank you for a great issue and what looks like a great series. It's refreshing to see a comic that has originality, especially with all of the copycatting being done this year.

My favorite things about the book are its humor and its realism. I like seeing a character worrying about a sunburn, brushing her hair, or starting a food fight. Unfortunately, too many comics resort to lots of fight scenes. Thankfully, you keep those to a minimum.

Just keep up the good work and people will start copying you.

My only complaint with **#3** is the cover. Why do you have to call them "Young Ex-Mutant Samurai Humans?" I am sick to death with the endless regurgitation whatever-age-warrior-animals. Please keep that reference off the cover.

Stephen Ferder
11 Richard Avenue
N. Merrick, NY 11566

P.S. I agree completely with what you said about Erin in the letter column in **#3**.

A man with taste. See that, Rockwell? I told ya! Keep yer stinkin' blurb offa my cover! But noooo — you just had to throw it on there the minute my back was turned! Now they hate it — they hate you! And it's just the sort of fate that mutant scum like you deserve!

Seriously, our ace art director Scott Rockwell (to say nothing of his being my roommate and my co-scripter on the incredibly off-the-wall wonder color super-team series, The Lunatic Fringe and I have been arguing about the blurb ever since I saw it pasted up on the cover. He insisted I had no sense of humor; I insisted he deserved to die.

You be the judge.

(Why do I just know he's going to get even with me when he pastes up this page?)

Thanks for the kind words, Stephen. The last thing I ever wanted to do is endlessly regurgitate other people's ideas, and happy to hear that we haven't been doing that.

You've got lots of company agreeing with me about Erin being the Ex-Mutant most like to encourage impure thoughts. David Campiti, Scott, and even Rambunctious Ron are with us on that one!

Next up, the official "There Is Life Beyond Marvel" letter of the month...

Dear Mutaters,

I'll tell you the truth. I don't normally read comic books unless they are put out by a "Marvelous" comics group. All of the black and white comic books with stupidly long titles were just a fad I hoped would pass.

Well, I was at a local comic book convention when something on one of the tables caught my eye. It was a bagged copy of **EX-MUTANTS #1**, priced at $10. Next to it were unbagged copies of **EX-MUTANTS #2**..

I asked the man behind the table and he explained the rarity of the comic in Canada. I saw at other tables they were charging up to $17 for it. Not being one to pass up a good deal, I went back and bought it.

I'm glad I did. It's one amazing comic. The art is among the best. The stories are great. Not too long, not too violent, not to wimpish. They are gutsy and daring without going overboard.

I hope to see some graphic novels, posters, and other paraphernalia. I think this will be Amazing Comics's most successful title.

Olvier Gross
824 Fleming
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada

Glad we helped you discover a good comic is a good comic, regardless of whether or not it says "Marvel" on the cover. But $10?? Ye Gods! Buy the reprint, already!

And as for **EX-MUTANTS** *posters, graphic novels, and paraphernalia — boy, are you gonna be a happy camper! Coming up in the next few months are* **EX-MUTANTS FULL-COLOR POSTER #1**, *by Ron and Tim, the* **EX-MUTANTS/RON LIM COLOR PIN-UP BOOK**, *and a full-color* **EX-MUTANTS GRAPHIC NOVEL**, *with painted color by Ron Courtney. In this business, the colorist can be an under-rated and all-*

important part of a book's success, and we're excited to have one as fine as Ron aboard.

Dear Sirs,

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy **EX-MUTANTS**. I almost passed it up, thinking it was just another black & white comic, but thanks to great word-of-mouth publicity, I went out and bought all three issues.

The first thing I noticed was the excellent characterization.

I was immediately caught up in the story and could feel Dr. Cugat's joy as the Ex-Mutants emerged in the first issue. Even the supporting characters like Zack are handled as well as the leads.

The artwork is excellent also, and I hope you can keep these guys around a long time. I've seen Tim Dzon's work before, and it seems he's becoming well-known.

I'm looking forward to the **NEW HUMANS**, but I'm concerned about whether you can maintain such high quality and reading enjoyment on two titles. I certainly hope you can.

I'm also looking forward to all the areas left to explore in this new world, and how the inhabitants will react to the Ex-Mutants. The possibilities are endless.

Since you asked for comments about the use of drugs and alcohol in **EX-MUTANTS #2** & **#3**, I think drugs and alcohol are harmful, and I'm against the use of either. But I don't think any harm was done in the pages of **EX-MUTANTS**. You did show Belushi with a hangover, and coughing badly when experimenting with the pot.

I wouldn't want to see you use it in every issue, but at this point I don't even think it's worth mentioning. I'm confident you won't turn the Ex-Mutants into "party animals."

Keep up the great work.

Al Mindy
315 W. Forest #103
Round Lake, IL 60073

Dear David, Ron, and Tim,

Thanks for running my letter in **EX-MUTANTS #3**. It was a real honor.

This book is turning out to be one of my favorites in a long time.

I have a question: What is the bad scene you mentioned the last time? Is it that Angie likes Vikki? If so, what a storyline this is going to be!

And this is to Neal and Nancy Feldman — you two folks are real heroes.

Yours truly,
Brian P. Daly
50 Rhode Island Drive
Jackson, NJ 08527

Angie likes Vikki?!? My god, Brian — even I'm not brave enough to try to pull off that one!

And now, for the sheer unmitigated heck of it, a sample of the early, and I hope not only, mail on **EX-MUTANTS: THE SPECIAL EDITION #1**...

Dear Dave & Co. —

I just got **EX-MUTANTS: THE SPECIAL EDITION #1** and I thought I'd send you some comments about your great comic.

First of all, I really enjoyed the extra scenes you added. Now the plot is even more confused than it was already! Who the heck is Norma Jean? Is she dead, being unmutated, or what?

I'm a little confused by the pre-war scene with Doctor Alex Cugat and his wife. I'm assuming they didn't have any chidlren, especially 3-eyed ones. Since he never saw her again, I assume he must have remarried, or a reasonable facsimile thereof. What was Mrs. Cugat's name, anyway?

And now, it's time for suggestions to make this comic even better:

Like Doc Cugat said, get the kids some more durable clothes. Also, get rid of the high heels! On the kind of rough ground the Ex-Mutants have been fighting on, they might break an ankle or something.

How about some stories about the kids back when they were still mutants?

What about mutant plants and animals?

For the sake of my budget, could you try to lower the price a little? Even if you can't, if you keep writing this great stuff, I'll keep buying it!

R. Bain
36 Erskine Drive
Morristown, NJ 07960

Well, if you keep buying it, I'll keep writing it. Sounds like a deal to me.

As for your questions, your going to be seeing more of Norma Jean, starting with our very next issue, so I don't want to give too much away yet.

As you saw last month, Dr. Cugat and his wife, Dr. Kelly Brock, are indeed Doc's parents. So, yes, some of the survivors were genetically altered by the war. How, and why, will all be revealed in time. Or not.

*More durable clothes? Get rid of the heels? *Sigh* You don't have any idea how much that would depress the rambunctious one, and we do so like to keep Ron happy. Mutant plants are animals? Some, perhaps, but I don't really want to create a situation where every time I'm stumped for a story I have the Ex-Mutants kill a mutant turtle or something.*

And I wish we could lower the price almost as much as you do.

And that's about it for this time.

Till the sky that we look upon tumbles and falls and the mountain crumbles to the sea...

—David Lawrence